Nixon Enters Hospital

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LONG BEACH, Calif., Sept 23—Former President Nixon looking ashen and drawn but showing no sign of a limp, entered Long Beach Memorial Hospital today for a week of treatment and exploratory tests of his phlebitis condition.

Mr. Nixon walked without assistance from the hospital's loading dock to a basement service elevator—roughly the length of a football field—following the one-hour motorcade trip from San Clemente. He was accompanied by his wife, Pat, and his daughter Julie Eisenhower, press aide Ronald L. Ziegler and several Secret Service agents.

As he approached the elevator, Mr. Nixon was asked how he was feeling. He ignored the question, but smiled and said only, "Good morning . . . mean, good afternoon." He appeared tired, and his face seemed covered with a yellowish make-up-like powder.

Minutes later, Dr. John C. Lungren, former chief of staff at the hospital and once Mr. Nixon's personal physician, told reporters that he had examined the former President briefly, and found him physically fatigued.

Lungren said the week-long stay would involve treatment of Mr. Nixon's two blood clots in his left leg with "anti-coagulating drugs" and "exhaustive studies to identify the primary causative agent or agents" of the phlebitis.

Mr. Nixon first developed phlebitis some 15 years ago. It flared up again last June during his Middle East trip and again during the 45 days since his resignation Aug. 9.

Various family members and associates have emerged from the San Clemente compound in recent weeks with stories that Mr. Nixon was in deep depression over his resignation, and his ailment. His personal physician, Dr. Walter Tkach, said recently that Mr. Nixon feared that once he entered the hospital he would never come out alive.

Ziegler conceded that Mr. Nixon was under stress, but insisted that "he is not having any psychiatric problems."

He said Mr. Nixon was distressed over his failure to have access to his personal pa-

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pers and the uncertainty about Congress's action with regard to his request for transition funds ("In order to allow him to answer some 400,000 pieces of mail").

The course of events, he said, has caused the former President to be "low" and "not in good spirits," but added, "this should not suggest that his mind is not very acute, and that his state of mind is not a healthy state of mind."

Ziegler further insisted that court actions and subpoenas requiring Mr. Nixon's presence had "no bearing whatsoever" on the decision to enter the hospital.

Mr. Nixon is in a reasonably spacious private room with green wall-to-wall carpeting, a reclining easy chair, color television, a bathroom with shower, and other amenities.

Hospital officials said that Mr. Nixon had requested two rooms and the Secret Service four rooms, but the hospital had blocked off a total of 10 at the back end of the ward to provide some separation from other patients. Officials said the government would pay for rooms used by the Secret Service, and Mr. Nixon would be charged the $90-a-day rate for his room.

Ziegler said Mrs. Nixon would not stay at the hospital with her husband. Julie Eisenhower, he said, was returning to the East today.

The Nixons arrived in a cream-colored Lincoln Continental, accompanied by three other cars with plainclothesmen and Secret Servicemen. The motorcade drove down a back entrance ramp to the hospital loading dock.

Long Beach Memorial Hospital Medical Center is a privately endowed hospital with 820 beds and 1,900 employees, including 600 private physicians. It is noted for its work in diagnostic studies and cardiology.